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Dated: September 26, 2003 Signature: *Tram Anh T. Nguyen*

(Tram Anh T. Nguyen)

Docket No.: 022956-0214  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of: Shelby L. Cook, et al.

Application No.: 10/615,625

Filed: June 27, 2003

For: BIOABSORBABLE SUTURE ANCHOR  
SYSTEM FOR USE IN SMALL JOINTS

Art Unit: N/A

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of the U.S. filing date (37 CFR 1.97(b)(1)).

A copy of each reference on PTO/SB/08 is attached.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent,

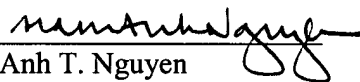
publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

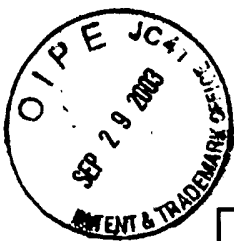
It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 141449, under Order No. 022956-0214. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: September 26, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Tram Anh T. Nguyen  
Registration No.: 47,257  
NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP  
World Trade Center West  
155 Seaport Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2604  
Tel: (617) 439-2734  
Fax: (617) 310-9734  
Attorneys/Agents for Applicant



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<b>Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/615,625
				Filing Date	June 27, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Shelby L. Cook
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	022956-0214

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US-5,203,787	04-20-1993	Noblitt et al.	
		US-5,464,425	11-07-1995	Skiba	
		US-5,540,718	07-30-1996	Bartlett	
		US-5,626,612	05-06-1997	Bartlett	
		US-5,683,418	11-04-1997	Luscombe et al.	
		US-5,782,863	07-21-1998	Bartlett	
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		US-5,871,503	02-16-1999	Bartlett	
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		US-2002/0004469	01-10-2002	Faber	
		US-2002/0007196	01-17-2002	Bartlett	
		US-2002/0099411	07-25-2002	Bartlett	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.		

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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